

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20 were pending in the application at the time of examination. Claims 1, 13, and 17 stand objected to for informalities. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 20 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,058,393 to Meier, et al., hereinafter referred to as "Meier". Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, and 19 stand objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the objection to Claims 1, 13 and 17, Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection for informalities of Claims 1, 13, and 17.

Applicants also amended Claim 5 to correct a spelling error.

In view of the objection to Claim 3, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 3. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

In view of the objection to Claim 7, Claim 5 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 7. Claim 7 has been cancelled.

In view of the objection to Claim 11, Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 11. Claim 11 has been cancelled.

In view of the objection to Claim 15, Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 15. Claim 15 has been cancelled.

In view of the objection to Claim 19, Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 19. Claim 19 has been cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 8 to 10, 12 to 14, 16 to 18 and 20 remain rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,058,393, referred to herein as Meier.

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the objections to Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, and 19 and the amendments to Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17, the anticipation rejection of each of these independent claims is rendered moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of each of Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from Claim 1 and so distinguish over Meier for at least the same reasons as Claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of each of Claims 2 and 4.

Claims 14 and 16 depend from Claim 13 and so distinguish over Meier for at least the same reasons as Claim 13. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of each of Claims 14 and 16.

Claims 18 and 20 depend from Claim 17 and so distinguish over Meier for at least the same reasons as Claim 17. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of each of Claims 18 and 20.

Claims 6 and 8 depend from Claim 5 and so distinguish over Meier for at least the same reasons as Claim 5. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of each of Claims 6 and 8.

Claims 10 and 12 depend from Claim 9 and so distinguish over Meier for at least the same reasons as Claim 9. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of each of Claims 10 and 12.

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Amdt. dated July 6, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2006

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 8 to 10, 12 to 14, 16 to 18 and 20 remain in the application. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17 have been amended. Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, and 19 have been cancelled. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicants.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450, on July 6, 2006.

  
Forrest Gunnison

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
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